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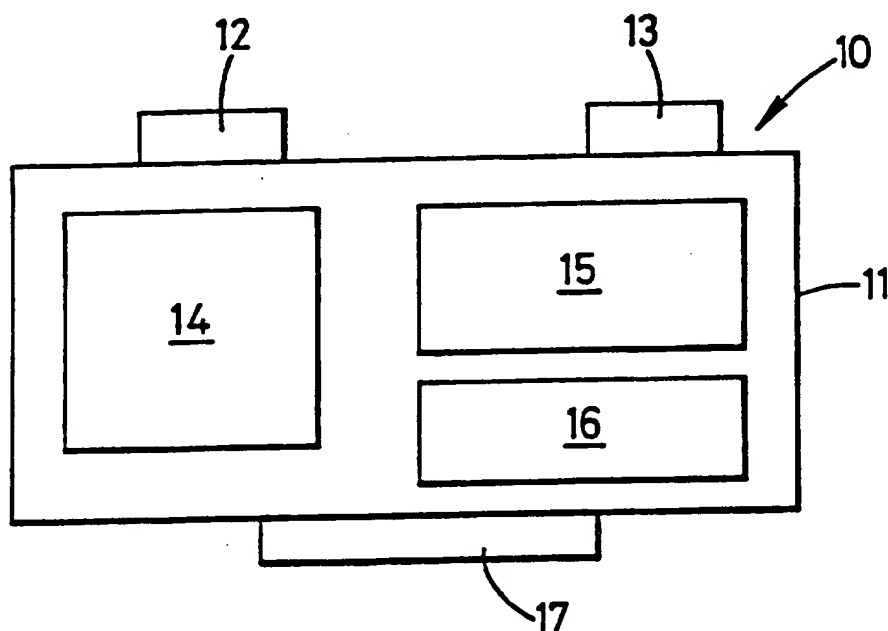
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB90/00799 (22) International Filing Date: 22 May 1990 (22.05.90) (30) Priority data: 8911740.2 22 May 1989 (22.05.89) GB (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: HATTON, Leslie [GB/GB]; Oakwood, 11 Carlton Road, New Malden KT3 3AJ (GB). (74) Agent: GORDON, Richard, John, Albert; 17 Richmond Hill, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey TW10 6RE (GB). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent)*, DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), US.</p>		<p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR FORWARDING A MESSAGE



(57) Abstract

A facsimile machine (10) is provided with a memory (14) for storing an incoming message and a control unit (16) for transmitting the message to another facsimile machine, which may be easily portable, on receiving a signal from the other machine or after a pre-programmed time entered into the control unit (16) by operating a control panel (17).

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Apparatus for Forwarding a Message

This invention relates to apparatus for forwarding a message by way of a communications link.

5 With the increase in popularity of facsimile machines, technical development has resulted in the provision of such machines which are portable. However, the ability to transport a facsimile machine from one location to another is of little value if it is not possible to establish a
10 communications link between the machine when at any such location and a station at which facsimile messages normally would be received so that such messages may be forwarded to the portable machine.

15 It is desirable therefore to provide apparatus for forwarding a message by way of a communications link to a station whereby a facsimile machine located at the station issues a record of the message.

20 According to the present invention, there is provided apparatus for forwarding a message by way of a communications link comprising receiving means for receiving the message from a first station, decoding means for decoding the message received by the receiving means,
25 storage means for storing the message decoded by the decoding means and control means for controlling communication with a second station by way of the communications link so that, on receiving a signal from

the second station, the message stored in the storage means is transmitted to the second station.

5 If a portable facsimile machine is connected to the communications link at the station, the message transmitted to the station can be decoded by the portable machine and a record of the message generated by the machine.

10 Following is a description, by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawing which is a diagrammatic representation, of one method of carrying the invention into effect.

15 In the drawing there is shown apparatus 10 comprising a frame 11 having located thereon a socket 12 for receiving a plug (not shown) of a telecommunications link and a power supply 13. Also located on the frame is a circuit comprising a non volatile battery driven memory 14, an
20 auto-dialling auto-answering modem 15 and a control unit 16, the circuit including the socket 12 and the power supply 13 and including a manually operable control panel 17.

25 The apparatus is connected to a communications link by inserting the plug in the socket 12. On detecting an incoming facsimile call according to the standard CCITT Groups 2,3 or any other current facsimile standards, the control unit 16 causes the incoming facsimile message to
30 be decoded by the modem 15 and stores the message in the

memory 14, which may have the capacity to store many such messages.

Subsequently, the control unit 16 causes the modem 15 to
5 call a forwarding station by way of the communications link, at which station there is located a facsimile machine, and to transmit the message from the memory 14 to the station whereby the message issues as a record generated by the machine.

10

The control unit 16 is adapted to receive and store signals indicative of the forwarding station and to call the forwarding station on receiving the incoming facsimile call or after a pre-programmed time entered into the
15 control unit 16 by operating the control panel 17.

20

The control unit 16 also is adapted to delay if communication with the forwarding station cannot be established.

Furthermore, the control unit 16 is adapted to forward any stored messages by way of the communications link to the forwarding station on being interrogated only by that station, information regarding the station having been
25 entered into the control unit 16 by operating the control panel 17.

It will be appreciated that apparatus according to the present invention provides an advantage in that it would
30 make available portable facsimile machines which could be

connected to a telecommunications network and arranged to generate a record of a message forwarded thereto by the apparatus.

5 Furthermore, such apparatus would be inexpensive to manufacture because it would comprise substantially an assembly of standard components and the provision of relatively simple control software. The components would include the modem 15 which would be of a type approved by
10 Authority and the apparatus should, therefore, comply with requirements of the Authority.

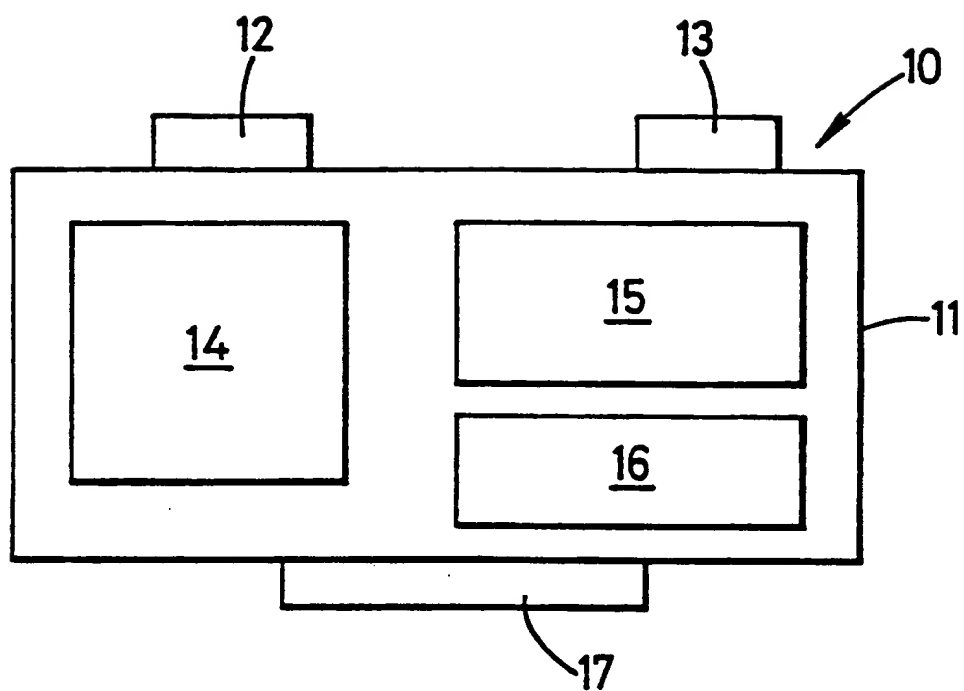
It will also be appreciated that apparatus according to the present invention is independent of the state of
15 technology of a local communications network and has the capacity to forward messages to any station which can be called directly, including a station located in a country different from the country in which the apparatus is located.

Claims

1. Apparatus (10) for forwarding a message by way of a communications link comprising receiving means (12) for receiving the message from a station, decoding means (15) for decoding the message received by the receiving means (12) and storage means (14) for storing the message decoded by the decoding means (15) characterised in that there is provided control means (16) for controlling communication with a second station by way of the communications link so that, on receiving a signal from the second station, the message stored in the storage means (14) is transmitted to the second station.
2. Apparatus (10) as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the control means (16) is adapted to receive and store signals indicative of the second station.
3. Apparatus (10) as claimed in Claim 2 characterised in that the control means (16) is adapted to transmit the message stored in the storage means (14) at a predetermined interval.
4. Apparatus (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the control means (16) is adapted to delay transmitting the message to the second station if communication with the second station cannot be established.

5. Apparatus (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the control means (16) is adapted to transmit any messages to the second station on being interrogated only by that station.
6. Apparatus (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that there is provided means (17) for entering in the storage means (14) information relating to the second station.

1/1



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. **PCT/GB 90/00799**

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁴ According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC⁵: H 04 L 12/54																	
II. FIELDS SEARCHED <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷</div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; border: none;">Classification System</td> <td style="border: none;">Classification Symbols</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; padding-top: 10px;">IPC⁵</td> <td style="border: none; padding-top: 10px;">H 04 L, H 04 M, H 04 N</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;"> Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸ </div>			Classification System	Classification Symbols	IPC⁵	H 04 L, H 04 M, H 04 N											
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IPC⁵	H 04 L, H 04 M, H 04 N																
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Category ¹⁰</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Relevant to Claim No. ¹³</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">X</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">GB, A, 2193067 (CANON) 27 January 1988 see page 2, lines 33-110; page 3, lines 29-42; figures 1,2,3</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">1,2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">3-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">X</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">DE, A, 3306706 (RICOH) 15 September 1983 see page 3, lines 14-19; page 4, lines 13-18; page 6, line 4 - page 7, line 31; figures</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">1-3,4-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">X</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">National Telecommunications Conference, NTC 80, Houston, Texas, 30 November - 4 December 1980, Conference Record, vol. 1 of 4, IEEE, (New York, US),</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">1,2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³	X	GB, A, 2193067 (CANON) 27 January 1988 see page 2, lines 33-110; page 3, lines 29-42; figures 1,2,3	1,2	A	--	3-6	X	DE, A, 3306706 (RICOH) 15 September 1983 see page 3, lines 14-19; page 4, lines 13-18; page 6, line 4 - page 7, line 31; figures	1-3,4-6	X	National Telecommunications Conference, NTC 80, Houston, Texas, 30 November - 4 December 1980, Conference Record, vol. 1 of 4, IEEE, (New York, US),	1,2
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>¹⁴ Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁵</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"A" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>																	
IV. CERTIFICATION <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 10th August 1990 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 26. 08. 90 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; vertical-align: top;"> International Searching Authority EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE </td> <td style="border: none; vertical-align: top;"> Signature of Authorized Officer <div style="text-align: right;"> M. SOTELO </div> </td> </tr> </table>			Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 10th August 1990	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 26. 08. 90	International Searching Authority EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	Signature of Authorized Officer <div style="text-align: right;"> M. SOTELO </div>											
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**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB-A- 2193067	27-01-88	JP-A- 63030059	08-02-88
		JP-A- 63039263	19-02-88
DE-A- 3306706	15-09-83	JP-A- 58147270	02-09-83
		US-A- 4607289	19-08-86